

Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord - 29th March 2026

Annfield Plain - St. Teresa, Blackhill - Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Brooms - Our Blessed Lady & St. Joseph,

Stanley, St. Joseph

Consett - St. Patrick,

PONTOP

Partnership

Dipton - St. Patrick, Lancheater - All Saints, Moorside - St. Plus X, Shotley Bridge - Our Lady of the Rosary

Entering the Drama

As we begin Holy Week, we might ask ourselves why does the story of Jesus' Passion move us so much? After all, Jesus Christ wasn't the only man to die for a cause, nor would he be the last. He wasn't the first or the last innocent man to be put to death.

I think the reason why the Passion of Jesus Christ moves us so deeply is that we can identify with the very human details we hear as the drama unfolds. We can see ourselves in this story.

Take for example the behaviour of Jesus' friends. Was there ever such abandonment? Judas, one of the twelve disciples who were specially chosen by Jesus, completely betrays him.

We could perhaps accept the behaviour of Judas as just one bad apple if the other disciples, Jesus' close friends, had remained true and faithful. But we know they didn't. Jesus' disciples left him, including Peter.

At times this is the story of our lives too. We could easily be Peter in his denial. We might also fit in well with the other disciples who ran at the first sign of danger. We could even play the part of the mob, with their thirst for blood. And Judas? There may have been certain times and situations in our lives when Jesus could easily say to us as he said to Judas "Friend, why are you here?"

We pray this Sunday, as we enter the drama of the Passion, that we will not abandon the one who suffered for us. Let us follow the drama, be moved once again and be thankful.

Fr Tom McHale

(except Monday)

01207 - 502320

Fr John Bagnall

(except Wednesday)

01207 - 502196

Deacon Chris Callan

Deacon Shaun McGee

Deacon David Westgarth

General Notices Around the Partnership

e-mail addresses: stpatricks.consett@diocesehn.org.uk- stmarys.blackhill@diocesehn.org.uk.

St Patrick's Consett Partnership - Sacrament of Reconciliation: St Patrick's, Consett; Saturday after 10am Mass. Our Lady and St Joseph's Brooms on Saturday's before the 5.30pm Vigil Mass 4.45pm-5.15pm.

Communion Visits: If anyone is aware of someone who is housebound and who would like to receive communion at home, please contact Fr Tom at St Mary's 01207 502023.

Mobile Phones: Kind Request to please remember to put your mobile phones on silent when you are in church. Ring tones and messaging sounds disturb people who are trying to pray.

Homeless in Derwentside: there has been an increase in homelessness in Derwentside, so once more your generous help is needed for thermal wear/waterproofs/toiletries/thermal flasks. A 71yr old man has finally got a bungalow and is needing help with furnishing it. Any help would be greatly appreciated. For any information about this appeal please contact Jean Coates 07521 404924.

Sincere thanks: to all who helped plan and supported the Lourdes Fundraiser at St Patrick's Hall Consett. A fantastic £1201 was raised to support a young parishioner of St Teresa's Annfield Plain to travel to Lourdes in the summer with the diocese.

Holy Souls Prayer Group: The Holy Souls Prayer Group will be held on 10th April at St Patrick's Consett at 10.30am (instead of 3rd April). Please bring with you your Rosary Beads and any written names of your deceased family and friends.

Holy Week:- A full list of Services is displayed on the notice board at the back of the Church

Good Friday Open-Air Service: On Good Friday there will be an open-air service of readings and music outside Wetherspoons, Consett presented by members of our local Christian churches. Please join us at 12 noon to join in this act of witness and public prayer.

Polish Easter Food Blessing: St Patrick's on Saturday 5th April at 12 noon.

Events

The Divine Mercy Celebration: will take place on Sunday 12th April at St Mary's (Our Blessed Lady Immaculate) Church Blackhill DH8 8LP. The celebration will begin at 2.00pm. Light refreshments (Tea and Coffee) will be served in the Kennedy Centre afterwards.

Further details of the Celebration will be placed in parishes throughout the partnership during the coming weeks. Julie Brown and Kathleen Carroll are the named people organising this.

English Martyrs School Reunion Class of 1976: You are welcome to attend the fun event on April 2nd at Consett Steel Club from 7.30pm. There will be a School Disco and Quiz (bring a pen) and a price giving ceremony. £2 fee will be collected to fund this event

Raised on Songs and Stories: Great Irish afternoon in the Demi on Wednesday 22nd April at 12.30pm. Music, Dancing, Food and great craic. Everyone welcome, please come along.

Groups

West Pontop Partnership (SVP):Serving the West Pontop Partnership, St Mary's SVP Conference is here with a warm welcome for all. If you know of anyone who might appreciate a friendly visit or a little extra support, please do let us know—we're always happy to help. If you feel called to get involved, we would truly love you to join us. Even a small contribution of your time can make a real and lasting difference in our community. You can email us at: PresidentC210301@svp.org.uk or phone - 07377 259724. Please save the date: Race Night on

Friday 8th May at Leadgate Social Club in aid of SVP. Tickets (£3) will be available after Mass. We hope you can come along for a fun and friendly evening. We would also be very grateful for any bottle donations for our raffle. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and helps us continue our work—thank you so much.

Pilgrimages

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: Flying from Newcastle on Sunday 28th June return Sunday 5th July 2026. Cost £839 sharing, £979 single room. More details on the notice board or ring 'Northern Star Travel' on 0161 773 2115.

Pontop Partnership Pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto: Wednesday 29th April. Cost £20. More information on the notice board. Please put payment in an envelope available at the back of the church from Monday with name and amount and put it through St Mary's or St Patrick's presbytery. Please check your name is on the sheet if you wish to go.

KNOCK Pilgrimage: There are still the following places; 3 double/twin rooms available at £640.00 per person and 1 single £790.00, plus £25 for entry to Titanic Experience. **Contact Michael 07787726306.** The **FULL ITINERARY** will be available at the back of each church from this weekend. Any problems please ring. Thank you.

St Mary's News

Collections: This Week –Flowers Next week - Holy Places

Lately Deceased: Tommy Kelly. Please pray for him and his Family at this sad time.

The Sanctuary Candle: This week the candle will burn 'In Loving memory of Brian and Kevin Parker'

Shaping Parish Life - Strategy Meeting: Bishop Stephen is asking every parish to reflect openly and honestly on its Mission, and so to contribute to a wider diocesan plan for the future. He has provided a Discernment Toolkit to that end. We are being consulted and called to discuss and reflect as a parish. A meeting will take place in St Mary's on 18th April at 1pm, everyone is welcome to attend.

Legion of Mary: Will say the Holy Rosary and Legion prayers on Tuesday evenings at 6pm.

The Sunday Breakfast Club: which was to be held on Sunday 5th April. Has been cancelled. The next one will take place on Sunday 19th April after the 9.15am Mass.

300 Club March Winners: £20 C Hildich (106), £10 J Devaney (230), £10 T McAloon (50), £10 P Page (112).

Song Sung Blue: Neil Diamond Evening in the Kennedy Care Centre on Saturday 9th May 2026. Doors open 6.30pm. Tickets £5. Bar/Bingo/Raffle. Gifts for raffle can be placed in a box at the back of the church.

St Patrick's News

Collections: This Week – Flowers Next Week - Holy Places

Children's Liturgy: The Children's Liturgy takes place at St Patrick's on the first Sunday of each month. Please encourage your children to join in as they will enjoy learning and understanding about the Gospel. A special thank you goes to those who support and lead the liturgy.

Holy Thursday: St Patrick's 7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper "Washing of the Feet" A list is at the back of St Patrick's Church for volunteers to leave your name and contact telephone number to take part in the "Washing of the Feet". Names are required by Monday 30th March.

St Patrick's Hall Tea on Tuesday: Come along and join us on Tuesday 7th April 2.00pm at St. Patrick's Church Hall for Tea, Coffee and Cake bring your friends and family too.

Sunday Coffee Morning: Sunday 29th March after 9.15am Mass all welcome in the Church Hall Lounge for Bacon Sandwiches, Tea and Coffee.

Shaping Parish Life for The Future: Last week, all parishioners were given a questionnaire, which concerns the hopes and challenges of the future of our parishes. Please return your responses to those questions by 31st March. Everyone in St. Patrick's parish is invited to a public meeting to discuss those challenges and hopes. The meeting will take place on Thursday 26th March in St. Patrick's Hall Lounge at 6.00pm.

Brooms - Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Collections: This Week – Flowers Next Week - Holy Places

People's Kitchen: Thank you for your continued donations of coppers and small change which is forwarded to the People's Kitchen in Newcastle. Your donations can be deposited in the named tin at the back of the church.

Toddler Group: Brooms School Toddler Group will operate every **Wednesday in term time from 9.15am – 10.30am**. Refreshments will be provided for a small donation but there will be no charge to attend. All are welcome.

St Ives: There will be a 10am Washing of the Feet service led by Brooms School pupils on Tuesday 31st March. All are welcome.

Shaping Parish Life for The Future: Last week, all parishioners were given a questionnaire, which concerns the hopes and challenges of the future of our parishes. Please return your responses to those questions by 6th April. Everyone in Broom's parish is invited to a public meeting to discuss those challenges and hopes. The meeting will take place on Tuesday 7th April at Leadgate Cricket Club Lounge at 2.00pm.

St Pius News

Collections: This Week – Flowers Next Week - Holy Places

Children's Liturgy: Our Children's Liturgy is held every Sunday. If you would like to volunteer to help or lead the Liturgy please see Lisa Hicks.

Holy Rosary hour: will be held on Monday 30th March at 6.00pm

Exposition on Wednesday: Commences at 5.45pm until further notice.

100 Club: Subscriptions are due for commencing the new year on the 1st May. There are some spare numbers available if you would like any please see Christina Parkin. Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

Shaping Parish Life for The Future: Last week, all parishioners were given a questionnaire, which concerns the hopes and challenges of the future of our parishes. Please return your responses to those questions by 6th April. Everyone in St Pius parish is invited to a public meeting to discuss those challenges and hopes. The meeting will take place on Thursday 9th April at St Pius Church 4.00pm.

Our Lady of the Rosary News

Collections: This Week – Flowers Next week - Holy Places

Shaping Parish Life - Strategy Meeting: Bishop Stephen is asking every parish to reflect openly and honestly on its Mission, and so to contribute to a wider diocesan plan for the future. He has provided a Discernment Toolkit to that end. A meeting will take place on Sunday 19th April at 3pm in Our Lady of the Rosary Church.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: Alfred McDonald, Thomas Hillas, Julia Brown, James Glasgow, Susan McKie, Barbara Jane Cook, Malcolm Hester, Mary Anne Price, Mary Worrall, John James, Eva Barrie, Rose Ellen McCrory, William Clifford, Marion Whaley, Elizabeth Ann McArdle, Henry George Wynn, Margaret Ralphs, Terry Guy, Edith Elizabeth Kendal Thorpe, James Tams, Marjorie Murray, Michael Gowland, James Francis Lavery, Thomas Cowie, Arnold William Watson, Brenda Madelene Parkin, Elizabeth Dimmick, Margaret (Peggy) McLoughlin, Arthur McClen, Peter Farrell, Mary Richardson, Pauline Charlotte Irving, Kenneth Hylton Peacock.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Fr. Paul Harrison, Tom Cowie, Mary Florence Nicholson, Arthur Denis Nicholson, Mary McKie, Thomas Bell, William John Devlin.

St. Patrick's: James Conney, John Donoghue, Janet Robson, David Adams, Gerard Lydon, Jim Brolly, Margaret Naughton, Teresa Maughan, Francisco Rodrigues, Sylvia Dimambro, Mary Owens, Jean Huntsman, Angela Mackin, Mary Ramsden, Veronica Morgan, Peter Young, Catherine Lee, Maureen Rodgers, Anthony Price, James Keith Connelly, Nora Robson, Joseph McGuigan, Gerard Storey, Maureen Irwin, Jean Malone, Margaret Mary Gowland, Arthur Page, Lorraine Sewell.

St Pius: Janet Mary Dobson, Eva May Hall, Mary Kennedy, Austin Quinn, Bobby Robson, Norah Sheeky, Gerard Thompson, Peter Young.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Bob Hewitson, Margaret Shannon, Jim O'Neill, Julie Tonks (Cullen), Marian Richardson, Michael Lucy, Margaret Storey, Sarah E. Fountain, Norma Clark, Maria Herdman, Les Slavin, Joseph Liddell Jnr. Andrew Farley, Owen Lee, Terence O'Loughrin, John Walls, Margaret Turnbull, Angela Cox, Aileen Bartle, Teresa Akers.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR PARISHES

We keep in our prayers

St Mary's: Paul Wass, Ryan McBeath, Kieran Richard Atkinson, Amelia Burns, Ethan White, James Thomas English, Eileen Fannon, Mary Barnes, Arron Armstrong, Maddy Kennedy, Mark Adams, Jack Nugent, Donna Philips, Julianne Kennedy, Eileen Haughey, David Oliver, Jimmy McGuigan, Sarah June Quinn, Thomas Eccles, Philip Robinson, Peter Doherty, Jakob English, Katelyn Howe, Ann Hester, Fiona Bell, Cecelia Moore, David Urwin, Barbara Bennison, Eileen Dunstan, Molly Glancy, Ian Clarke, Simon Quinn, Joseph Parisi, Teresa Easton, Kathleen Bowman, Teresa Kelly, Ronan Lawson (Aged 7).

Our Lady of the Rosary: James Baker.

St. Patrick's: Eileen Fish, Margaret Heslop, Anna Bradley, Cheryl Reily, Judith Hindmarsh, Andrew Bates, Sienna Jane McNestry, Joan O'Keefe, Joan Wilson, Alan McCullagh, Terry Maguire, Katrina Tuckwell.

St Pius: Joseph Agnew, Gerry Akers, Marie Atherton, Martin Daly, Rita Daly, Paul Hunt, Danny Morton, Jade Telford, Muriel Steele, Ethan O'Neil.

Partnership Prayer

*Risen Christ, from your abundant grace,
pour out afresh your Holy Spirit upon our Diocese.*

*As we build on the deep foundations of faith
laid by the countless saints of these Northern lands,
by Aidan and Cuthbert, Hilda and Bede
may our Partnerships continue the mission
of building your Kingdom on the earth:
to give living witness to your love,
and to your compassion and hope for our world.*

*We pray in trustful confidence that your power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.*

Who live and reign forever and ever. Amen'

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

*My Jesus I believe that you are present in the most Holy Sacrament, I love you
above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this
moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I
embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you, never
permit me to be separated from you. Amen'*

A Prayer for Peace by Pope John Paul II

*Hear my voice, for it is the voice of the victims of all wars and violence
among individuals and nations.*

*Hear my voice, for it is the voice of all children who suffer and will suffer
when people put their faith in weapons and war.*

*Hear my voice when I beg you to install into the hearts of all human beings
the wisdom of peace, the strength of justice, and the joy of fellowship.*

*Hear my voice, for I speak for the multitudes in every country
and in every period of history who do not want war are ready to walk the road
of peace.*

*Hear my voice and grant insight and strength so that we may always respond
to hatred with love, to injustice with total dedication to justice,
to need with the sharing of self, to war with peace.*

O God, hear my voice and grant unto the world Your everlasting peace. Amen'